

Message Text

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ORIGIN BIB-01

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DRAFTED BY BIB:WRROBERTS:KLB
APPROVED BY EUR:WHLUERS
EUR/CE-SKLINGAMAN
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL MUNICH IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 126744

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, SOPN

SUBJECT:RFE/RL, INC.

REF: MUNICH 2427; 2434; BONN 09091

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1. DURING RECENT ROUND OF CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS
REGARDING BIB AUTHORIZATION AND APPROPRIATIONS CONCERN
WAS EXPRESSED REGARDING THE RISING DOLLAR COSTS OF
OPERATIONS IN FRG AND WHETHER THE TIME HAD NOT ARRIVED TO
REEXAMINE THE POSSIBILITY OF RELOCATING SOME, MOST OR
EVEN ALL MAJOR PROGRAM (REPEAT PROGRAM NOT TRANSMITTER)
OPERATIONS FROM MUNICH TO U.S. IN SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS
COMMITTEE HEARING SENATOR PERCY PURSUED THE POSSIBILITY
WITH SOME VIGOR AND BIB CHAIRMAN GRONOUSKI PROMISED TO
STUDY THE QUESTION AGAIN. STUDY GROUPS WILL BE ASKED TO
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LOOK INTO POLITICAL AND PROGRAMMING, AS WELL AS
FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASPECTS, OF MINIMAL, PARTIAL OR
LARGE-SCALE RELOCATION. STUDIES ARE EXPECTED TO LAST
UNTIL NEXT SPRING. GRONOUSKI TESTIFIED THAT IN HIS VIEW
JOURNALISTIC ADVANTAGES OF MUNICH PROGRAM CENTER OUT-
WEIGHED FINANCIAL PRESSURES. BIB GENERALLY DOES NOT
BELIEVE CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURE FOR RELOCATION WOULD

BECOME DECISIVE UNLESS DOLLAR WERE TO FALL WELL BELOW TWO-MARK LEVEL.

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT RFE/RL CHIEF OPERATING EXECUTIVE ALEXANDER BUCHAN WHO WAS PRESENT AT HEARINGS, UPON HIS RETURN TO MUNICH, ALERTED THE STAFF TO A FORTHCOMING REEXAMINATION OF QUESTION WHETHER SOME, MOST OR ALL PROGRAM OPERATIONS COULD OR SHOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO U.S. WE ASSUME THAT MUNCHNER MERKUR ARTICLE BASED ON THAT STAFF MEETING.

3. EMPHASIS SHOULD BE GIVEN TO FACT THAT REEXAMINATION WILL INVOLVE ONLY PROGRAM OPERATIONS AND HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH STRENGTHENING OF TRANSMITTERS IN EUROPE (HOLZKIRCHEN AND PORTUGAL) WHICH U.S. WILL PURSUE WITH UTMOST VIGOR.

4. EUROPEAN TRANSMITTER BASES ARE ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL NO MATTER WHERE PROGRAM OPERATION MIGHT BE LOCATED. FURTHERMORE, NO DECISION ON MAJOR RELOCATION OF PROGRAMMERS WOULD BE TAKEN WITHOUT THOROUGH PRIOR DISCUSSION WITH APPROPRIATE GERMAN AUTHORITIES.

5. GRONOUSKI AND ROBERTS EXPECT TO FURTHER CLARIFY THIS SITUATION WHEN THEY CALL ON FOREIGN OFFICE JUNE 16. VANCE

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